

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

EAE-00 /102 W

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P R 170740Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6784

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRD, MTN, ASEAN, ID

SUBJECT: ASEAN DISCUSSION OF MTN WITH U.S.

REF: (A) STATE 206745 (B) MTN GENEVA 6522

1. DURING SEPTEMBER 15 MEETING ON ANOTHER SUBJECT WITH SILALAH, FONMIN'S WORKING LEVEL OFFICER FOR MTN, HE INFORMED EMBOFF GOI MTN DEL IN GENEVA HAD RECOMMENDED TO ALL ASEAN CAPITALS THAT STR DENT BE INVITED TO MEET WITH ASEAN SENIOR TRADE OFFICERS (STO) DURING THEIR SEPTEMBER 30-OCTOBER 5 MEETING IN KUALA LUMPUR. AMONG PURPOSES OF MEETING, ACCORDING TO SILALAH, WILL BE FORMULATION OF ASEAN RESPONSE TO DC MTN PROPOSALS.

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2. ASKED GOI'S ATTITUDE TOWARD SUCH AN INVITATION, SILALAH

SAID IT WOULD BE DECIDED DURING SEPTEMBER 16 INTER-MINISTERIAL MEETING. IF DECISION IN FAVOR OF INVITATION TO DENT WAS REACHED, AND IF RESPONSES FROM OTHER ASEAN CAPITALS ALSO FAVORABLE, INVITATION WOULD BE TENDERED. EMBOFF SAID AMBASSADOR DENT WOULD CERTAINLY CONSIDER CAREFULLY SUCH AN INVITATION, BUT POINTED OUT THAT ALTERING HIS SCHEDULE AT THIS LATE DATE MIGHT PRESENT PROBLEMS.

3. SILALAHY TELEPHONED SEPTEMBER 16 TO REPORT THAT INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE HAD DECIDED THAT QUESTION OF ASEAN MTN DISCUSSIONS WITH US SHOULD BE TAKEN UP BY STO IN KUALA LUMPUR. WHEN EMBOFF POINTED OUT THIS ALMOST CERTAINLY MEANT NO INVITATION TO AMBASSADOR DENT TO ATTEND THAT MEETING WOULD BE FORTHCOMING, HE AGREED, BUT ADDED THAT QUESTION WOULD BE STUDIED WITH VIEW TOWARDS LATER ASEAN/US DISCUSSION OF MTN MATTERS IN GENEVA. WHEN ASKED WHAT GOI HAD DECIDED RE INVITATION HE SAID NO DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN. (COMMENT: FACT THAT VIEWS OF OTHER ASEAN CAPITALS NOT YET RECEIVED OBVIOUSLY WEIGHED HEAVILY ON GOI, WHICH DID NOT WISH TO BE OUT IN FRONT ON THIS QUESTION. IF SILALAHY IS ACCURATE BAROMETER, WORKING LEVELS OF GOI FAVOR INITIATING US-ASEAN DIALOGUE ON MTN. END COMMENT.)

4. SILALAHY WAS CAREFUL TO DRAW DISTINCTION BETWEEN ASEAN-US DIALOGUE ON MTN AND FULL SCALE ECONOMIC TALKS. REASON HE CITED FOR ASEAN REFUSAL THUS FAR FOR LATTER WAS THAT ASEAN HAD NOT YET ACHIEVED COMMON POSITIONS ON WHOLE RANGE OF TOPICS THAT WOULD ARISE IN SUCH AN EXCHANGE.
NEWSOM

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